

## THE EMPORIA HOMICIDE.

The Cold-Blooded Murder of W. H. McMillan.  
Emporia Republican, Nov. 6.

The cold-blooded, mercenary murder committed in Emporia on Friday night, adds another item to the continuous record of horrors spread before the country by the daily telegraphic report. Distance, like time, has a wonderful mitigating effect upon the nerves. We hear, with comparative indifference, of a crime perpetrated, or an accident suffered, either a hundred years ago or a hundred miles away. The Java earthquake, destroying 75,000 lives, in September, awoke scarcely more than a languid and passing interest in the minds of American newspaper readers, even though they received news of the catastrophe a couple of hours after it occurred. The 12,000 miles of distance moderated the shock until its vibrations but barely caught newspaper attention. Crimes of the most atrocious description occurring every day in our own country are felt to be the essential feature of news in an interesting telegraphic report, and cause no especially disagreeable sensation, except in the places where they occur. The cold-blooded murder in our own city has caused a profound sensation here, and in Topeka, where the murdered man lived and was well and favorably known. But elsewhere the accounts of this crime will be read with no greater interest than newspaper readers in Emporia and in Topeka feel every day as they skim hastily over the sensational column of telegraphic news. A year hence this murder and the horror it creates will be almost forgotten, except by the relatives and near friends of the victim, and possibly those of the murderer, if he is detected. Time and distance are the potent barriers provided by a wise Providence to lighten the burdens humanity has to bear, and if it were not for these barriers, the race would sink into despair. Could we feel the shock of every murder and every accident related every day in the telegraphic dispatches, as we feel the shock of murder and of accident when they occur in our midst, we should either have to dispense with newspapers or die from a surfeit of the horrors they relate.

The Emporia murder is one of the worst, because the most cold-blooded and unjustifiable, committed at any place or time. Robbery seems to have been the object. The victim and his murderer were probably strangers. Yet as a man who is no doubt a stranger in Emporia was seen early in the evening breaking in two the sickle bar, with one end of which the fatal blows were struck, there must have been several hours at least of deliberate intent to waylay either the victim or anyone who might take the path he did along a lonely railroad track. Had it been a murder for revenge or of long intent, a more usual weapon would naturally have been prepared. Robbery was an object, because the body was plundered of all valuables. The blow must have been unexpected, because the victim did not raise hands or wrist to guard his head. The surgeons think the weapon was used by a left handed man, and the blow was struck from behind. The murderer may have met his victim, passed and then turned and struck him. The murderer's self-control is shown by the thorough rifling of his victim's clothing, and his desire to avoid detection by his placing the body on the track in a position to be run over by an expected train. The throwing of the weapon or dropping it some sixty feet from the body shows, too, that in his hurry the murderer forgot that its discovery would suggest that murder had preceded accident. Some man of evil habits, driven to the alternative of work or crime for some needed money, chose the latter course, and the determined action he took suggests an amount of self-possession that may now be enabling him to walk the streets with apparently undisturbed composure.

The officers have a reasonably accurate description of the man who was seen to be breaking in two the sickle bar. The state, city and county (if the latter has authority) should unite in offering rewards which will insure the prompt efforts of experienced detective service in ferreting out the bold villain who was seen with the fatal weapon in his hands, apparently as defiant of observation as he was reckless of consequences.

Had the red-handed assassin, who committed this horrible crime, received a million dollars, instead of a hundred or two, and could he in some distant clime live in riotous indulgence on his blood-stained plunder, could he secure every luxury and indulge every passion money criminally obtained could purchase, his is a miserable, worthless, wretched existence. He has taken more than an innocent and unoffending man's life. He has sent his victim home to a grief-stricken household, battered and bruised as if by the hand of Cain, and the blood of that most foully murdered husband and father will brand the murderer's soul with an infamy that neither time or distance can lessen or efface. The murderer has sacrificed, for a pitiful bit of plunder that evil habits will soon dissipate, every possible chance he had of even one night's peaceful slumber, or one day's security from detection. His freedom, his name and his life are at the mercy of every circumstance. Go where he will, do what he may, escape suspicion or arrest until he drops into the grave somewhere awaiting him, he carries in his memory a curse which will blight every conscious hour of his life, and the burden must grow heavier the longer his guilt is unconfessed and undiscovered.

### Starting a Hog Ranch.

Chicago Times.

Cattle and sheep ranches have become common in all the western states and territories. Recently several horse ranches have been started. We also hear of a goat ranch in Colorado and a goose ranch in Texas. Some enterprising citizens of St. Louis have concluded to start a hog ranch. They have secured a large tract of broken and partially wooded land on the bank of the Mississippi river, about thirty-five miles south of the city, where they propose to carry on their operations. Much of the land is broken, but a considerable portion of it is adapted to tillage purposes. The tract contains a large number of oak and other nut-bearing trees. It is expected to derive considerable profit from the mast the trees will afford. The land is well supplied with springs and streams of pure water. It is not the intention of the managers of the enterprise to raise any cultivated crops for feed. The ground will be kept in grass and clover. They will rely on corn raised on the Illinois side of the river for food to fatten the hogs. The corn will be taken over in boats belonging to the company. The great American bottoms embrace some of the most productive corn lands in the world. It is proposed to stock the ranch with piggy sows obtained at the St. Louis stock yards. These animals can be bought very cheap and will be valuable for the purpose designated. First-class Berkshire males will be employed for improving the stock. The pigs will have an extensive range, abundant shade and good water. All the conditions will be favorable to a healthy condition of the animals. The location is excellent for obtaining supplies and for marketing the hogs when they are in a condition to slaughter.

This enterprise gives great promise of success. It seems strange that something of the kind had not been started before. Its operations will be watched with interest. It is likely that the managers will be able to obtain many kinds of food at a very low price. They might load scows with garbage at St. Louis, float them down the river and unload them at the hog ranch. Refuse fish and the waste of slaughter-houses could be treated in the same way. In every large city considerable quantities of corn and small grains become damaged in the course of a season by a variety of causes. Some is charred by fires in warehouses, some is damaged by water, and some becomes heated in elevators. Grain injured in any of these ways may generally be purchased in large quantities at very low rates. Admitting that the land controlled by this company is now in bad condition as regards fertility, it is certain that much of it can soon be made very productive by the judicious use of the manure made by the hogs. By means of hog manure large crops of red clover may be used, and this will be of great value for feeding hogs during the summer and early fall. In the course of a few years considerable land will become rich enough to produce large crops of corn. There would seem to

be many places on the Mississippi, Missouri, and Arkansas rivers where enterprises of this kind could be started with great promise of success. Boats would be able to reach portions of the country where large quantities of corn and other kinds of hog food are raised, but where the facilities for railway transportation are poor. Boats could take these articles from the places where they are raised to the hog ranch at a small cost. Many farmers occupying rich bottom lands would raise corn on contract, if it was taken off their hands as soon as it was matured.

It is likely that raising hogs on a large scale would pay well in many places where there is not good water communication. Many are now engaged in exclusive cattle and sheep production, but there are comparatively few persons who give their exclusive attention to hog-raising. A farm can be easily and cheaply fitted up for hog-raising. Comparatively few buildings are required, and these may be of the cheapest character. Adornment is wasted in buildings for protecting hogs. Tight roofs and dry floors are all that is required. The latter may be made of clay, concrete, or a mixture of gas-tar and lime and gravel. Much of the land should be devoted to the production of clover and tender grasses to be eaten by the hogs during the summer. Rye may often be raised to good advantage for winter pasturage. Much of the land should of course be devoted to the production of corn. The raising of corn calls for little expensive machinery as is the case with the production of small grain. If labor is high the harvesting may be done by the hogs themselves. In some parts of the south it is the custom to turn hogs into corn-fields and to allow them to do the harvesting. The practice appears to be very wasteful, but close observation shows that it is not. Nearly every grain is gathered up and eaten. It is also common there to turn hogs into fields of small grain that have become lodged. Observation shows that in these cases the amount of grain wasted is very small. By the employment of cheap, portable fences, the amount wasted may be greatly reduced. No labor is required to harvest artichokes for hogs. In fact, by judicious management, much of the labor in the production and harvesting of food for hogs may be reduced.

### New Zealand Immigration.

London Times.

Documents have been published from the agent general to the government of New Zealand respecting immigration to that colony. It appears that from April 2, 1882, to June 30, 1883, there arrived in the colony 3,205 emigrants. These were distributed as follows: Auckland, 556; Taranaki, 14; Hawke's Bay, 160; Wellington, 223; Marlborough, 8; Nelson, 19; Westland, 29; Canterbury, 1,074; Otago, 1,114. The nationalities were: English, 1,223; Irish, 1,235; Scotch, 696; Germans 34; French, 4; various, 13. The total number of immigrants who have arrived since July, 1871, was 104,410. M. de Cesare, in a letter to Mr. Rolleston, stated that the government were not prepared to assist any general scheme of immigration from Malta, as such a scheme would not come within the scope of the appropriation made by parliament. The government, however were willing to assist in the introduction of a limited number, say thirty, who have a special knowledge of olive or vine culture, or some other special industry adapted to the climate of New Zealand. The government of Malta to pay \$5 per head toward the passage money. The New Zealand government are anxious to promote the emigration of families of the small farmer class with sufficient capital to enable them to take up and work land under the leasing clauses of the act of 1882. The government offer facilities in the shape of reduced passage fares, etc., to this class.

### Surplus Returns.

Everything that the government turns its attention to of late years seems to yield a surplus return. The postal service became a paying one, and the income was cut off. Now it appears that the patent office has earned \$2,500,000 more than it could spend, which amount it has to its credit in the treasury.

A pasture company recently organized in Dimmitt county, Tex., has 130,000 acres of pasture land and \$800,000 capital.

## INDUSTRIAL BREVITIES.

Chicago parties have built a large slaughtering establishment at Houlton, Aroostook county, Me., and have also purchased in Aroostook and Penobscot counties and the provinces fifty thousand sheep, which are to be slaughtered and sent to Boston this fall and winter. They will be forwarded in refrigerator cars, each car to carry four hundred carcasses.

A curious Georgia industry is the making of wrapping paper out of rice straw and palm leaves. A factory at Savannah is turning out four tons a day of excellent paper, 87½ per cent rice-straw and 12½ per cent palm leaves. It can be made 20 per cent cheaper than paper made of jute-butts and rags. The rice-straw and palm leaves have heretofore been waste.

A French inventor has utilized the power of a mountain stream eight miles distant to supply electricity sufficient for 110 Edison lamps at Grenoble, the connection being made by a fine wire. There seems at present no reason to doubt that the force of distant water-powers can be conveyed to cities, and there used for lighting, heating, and manufacturing purposes.

An extraordinary yield of butter was lately obtained from an English-bred Jersey cow owned by a farmer in Hamilton county, Ontario. A carefully conducted test of ninety-three days' duration resulted in a yield of 296 pounds 10½ ounces of unsalted butter, which, when ready for market, weighed 311 pounds 13 ounces. Grass and five quarts of ground oats constituted her feed during the trial.

For cementing rubber or gutta-percha to metal Mr. Moritz Grossman, in his year book for 1883, gives the following recipe: Pulverized shellac, dissolved in ten times its weight of pure ammonia. In three days the mixture will be of the required consistency. The ammonia penetrates the rubber, and enables the shellac to take a firm hold, but as it all evaporates in time the rubber is immovably fastened to the metal, and neither gas nor water will remove it.

The Greek Sponge fisheries have been very much developed within the last two years, and at the present time there are 723 boats, 183 of which are provided with diving-bells, employed in this business. These boats carry from five to seven men. The fishing season commences in April and ends in August, the boats which are provided with diving bells going as far to sea as Tunis and Tripoli, while the others do not go beyond the coast of Greece and Crete.

M. Mermet recommends the use of nickel crucibles instead of silver in chemical manipulations. They are slightly attacked, it is true, by melted potash, but silver itself is not indifferent to this action. They cost at first much less than silver, and moreover they have the great advantage of melting at a higher temperature. It often happens, in fact, that inexperienced chemists melt their silver crucibles by heating them over a gas lamp; such an accident is not to be feared with nickel crucibles.

Cranberry plants are seldom raised from seed for the purpose of making new plantations, but there is no difficulty in raising them in that way. When the berries are ripe, bruise out the seeds and sow them in early spring where you wish them to grow, or in beds, to be afterward transplanted. There is no great skill required in transplanting cranberries. The chief point is to have the marsh or bed properly prepared for them. They may be set from eighteen inches to four feet apart; the closer they are set the sooner they will cover the ground, and that is the point aimed at.

Prof. Farlow says the black knot which so infests our American plumb-trees and some kinds of cherries, particularly the wild-choke cherry, is a native of this country and as yet has not been introduced into Europe. Europeans when importing our wild cherry trees for supplying the material for their cherry rum, had better be very careful not to introduce the black knot with their trees. Cutting and burning is the only remedy known for the black knot in this country. The work should be very thorough, not only with cultivated trees, but all wild ones in the vicinity as well.